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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 15 November 2004, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Kuchinsky ..... (Ukraine)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

1. **Mr. Zheglov** (Russian Federation) pointed to an omission in the Journal of the United Nations: regarding the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.52 that had been announced by the Russian Federation, only Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were mentioned, and Sudan, which had also become a sponsor, had been left out. The Russian Federation therefore requested the inclusion of an appropriate mention in the Journal issue of the following day.

2. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee), replying to a number of delegations, stated that it was possible to introduce a draft resolution at any time and that it could be put to the vote in one, two or three days.

Agenda item 103: Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (*continued*)

(a) Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (*continued*) (A/C.3/59/L.69)

Draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.69: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

3. **Ms. Rondeux** (Belgium) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.69 on behalf of the sponsors listed and Argentina, Dominican Republic, Japan and New Zealand. She hailed the consensual spirit that had prevailed during discussions on the draft resolution and hoped that the text would be adopted without a vote.

4. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Armenia, Burkina Faso, Chile, Guatemala, Namibia, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, South Africa and Turkey had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

Agenda item 104: Right of peoples to self-determination (*continued*) (A/C.3/59/L.70)

Draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.70: The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

5. **Mr. Elbadri** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.50, began by expressing his condolences to the Palestinian people and paying a glowing tribute to President Yasser Arafat, who had died on 11 November 2004. Egypt regretted having to introduce the resolution for the tenth year in a row, while all peace-loving nations hoped that the Palestinian people's aspiration to self-determination would be realized through Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territory.

6. The concept of self-determination was the main ingredient of humanitarian law and international law, constituted the backbone of democracy and embodied a people's collective will to be free. Draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.50 reaffirmed the fundamental principles of self-determination embraced by the civilized world and was similar to the draft of the previous year (A/C.3/58/L.35), but also contained the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, issued on 9 July 2004, according to which the construction of the wall impeded the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and a new paragraph recalling resolution 58/292 of the General Assembly. Egypt hoped that all delegations would support the draft resolution in solidarity with the occupied Palestinian people and to support the inviolable principles of which self-determination was a part. Wishing sincerely that Israel would stop occupying Palestinian land illegally, end its own illicit practices and assent to the self-determination of the Palestinian people and by the same token to the establishment of an independent and peaceful Palestinian State, Egypt hoped not to have to introduce that draft resolution again.

7. The peace process, fervently desired for in the Middle East, was unfortunately sluggish and stagnating, because Israel believed that time would wear down conviction and that occupation would increase its power. Israeli promises to encourage peace and to withdraw from the occupied territory multiplied but remained ineffective and it was time that they materialized, so that Palestinians and Israelis could live in peace.

8. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Zimbabwe had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

Agenda item 105 (b): Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*) (A/C.3/59/L.42 and A/C.3/59/L.45)

Draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.42: Missing persons

9. **Ms. Adjalova** (Azerbaijan) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.42 on behalf of the sponsors and the following countries: Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Canada, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Nicaragua, Peru, Switzerland, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Referring to the fourth, sixth and eighth preambular paragraphs and to paragraphs 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9, she urged the States, intergovernmental institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to work without respite at the national, regional and international level in order to deal with the issue of missing persons. The Azerbaijani delegation invited the members of the Committee to adopt the draft resolution by consensus as at previous sessions.

Draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.45: Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

10. **The Chairman** announced that a revised version of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.45 would be introduced later on.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.